

WOLVES IN ALASKA

Even after Alaska voters twice voted to restrict aerial gunning of wolves and more than 42,000 registered Alaska voters have endorsed a ballot measure to restrict aerial gunning of wolves, state officials are now pushing even more extreme measures to kill more wolves.

Earlier this week, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin's administration announced plans to **pay a \$150 bounty for any wolf killed** in specified management zones -- provided that the shooter turns in the dismembered legs of wolves they've killed as proof.

Her office also left open the possibility that wolf shooters be able to use not just fixed-wing aircraft, but also **helicopters**, to kill wolves. Not even notoriously anti-wolf former Governor Frank Murkowski would allow that!

Fast Facts

- More than 600 wolves have been killed since Alaska reinstated its controversial aerial gunning program four years ago.
- State officials estimate that there are 7,000 to 11,000 wolves in Alaska. However, this information is not based on a sound survey but, instead, largely on reports from hunters. Fewer wolves may have been killed this year because fewer wolves exist than the state believes.
- Alaska voters have twice voted to restrict the aerial gunning method, only to have the state's legislature and unelected Board of Game work to overturn their vote and expand aerial gunning.

More information about the plight of Alaska's wolves, and the pending de-listing of Idaho and Wyoming wolves, visit www.defenders.org/wildlife/new/wolves

"Wild"

*The urge to run was so powerful I saw the wolf before me
backlit by the moon I felt my legs quivering with fear but I
did not want to run away from her I wanted to run with her
into the night I wanted to howl and hear the echo of those
who heard responding calling letting the world know that
they too have a place in this world I wanted to watch the
fur on her ruff stand as she sensed danger and watch her
attack the creature that threatened her I wanted I wanted
to crouch low and stalk the deer an run again along side
her as she lunged for its through and brought it down so
expertly I wanted to crawl into the den where the pups
mewled and suckled but instead I stood there frozen with
the shaking fear as the wild thing turned and walked away
from me and never looked back why did I not follow
because I am not wild and never can be it is a gift I do not
have but can only wish for I will never run or howl or kill
or stand before a stranger who would harm me and turn
and walk away without looking back*

This poem comes from one of our sponsors. We want to hear from YOU! Send us your artwork, short poem, or photos of wolves, and they might end up in our NEXT newsletter.



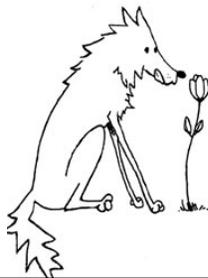
Bumper stickers.... Travel mugs.... We need a catchy phrase that signals the need to protect wolves in Canada. You know what we are all about.... got any ideas? If your slogan is used, you will win a NLW ballcap, and know that people are listening to your message.

KISSES & GROWLS

Growls to the Alaska, Idaho, & Wyoming governors for their war on wolves!

Kisses to Island Inkjet in Calgary who recycles our ink cartridges!

Kisses to Bean Bag Coffee Roasters in Golden for recycling their coffee bags!



Become A Sponsor

Help us help wolves! You can adopt a wolf individual from our pack, and receive updates about your wolf... or you can become a pack member and receive general updates about the pack and the wolf centres. Your generosity helps with the huge responsibility of feeding and caring for our wolf pack, putting together our Edu-kit, as well as helping us to reach our goals at each facility to promote wolf awareness, help to educate people, and help change legislation to protect our wilderness.

Adopt A Wolf \$ 75

Pack Membership

\$250 = Wolf Pack

\$100 = Alpha Member

\$ 50 = Beta Member

\$ 20 = Puppy Member

Check out our website www.northernlightswildlife.com for pictures and info about the individual wolves.

WE ACCEPT MEAT DONATIONS!

PELTS & SKULLS: We are looking for donations of wolf or bear pelts and skulls for putting together Edu-kits for our school programs. Pelts and skulls are wonderful hands-on tools for teaching kids about scary predators and other "untouchables". Do you know any hunters or trappers? Let us know!



AMOROK

For those of you wondering how Amorok is doing, we are pleased to inform you that he has found a wonderful new home. This is his fifth home, and he has certainly lucked out – many other wolfdogs are abandoned or euthanized.



Northern Lights Wildlife
WOLF CENTRE

1745 SHORT ROAD
GOLDEN, BC V0A 1H1
www.northernlightswildlife.com

tel. (250) 344-6798
toll-free 1-877-377-WOLF
info@northernlightswildlife.com

Big Birthday!

Yes folks, this May we've got 5 years of awareness behind us! Mid-May will mark the 5th Anniversary of our wolf centre in Golden, where the Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre was born. This year, we'll celebrate by hosting an Open House at our wolf centre in Panorama Mountain Village: which will include local musicians, artists, draw prizes, a barbeque and refreshments, educational displays, interpretive talks and children's activities - all for FREE! Come and help us celebrate!

If you think you can contribute something special to our event, please give us a call or send us an e-mail.

One goal for 2007 is to reach more of the local residents. Visitors from far-off countries have returned to us several times, yet many people from the surrounding area have yet to check us out. It is our own backyard that needs protecting, and the people living here will have the strongest voice. It would be nice to hear these voices joined in a howling chorus as we "Cry Wolf!" Together we can help protect our wild spaces ... like Jumbo Glacier, and those magnificent wolves and grizzlies.

Roadkill Buzzzzz...

We have been working hard, writing letters and grumbling into the phone, for free access to road-killed ungulates to feed our wolves. Currently, when wildlife is hit and killed in a vehicle collision, the dead animal becomes the property of the government. Therefore, we spend quite a bit of money buying this meat... which would go to waste anyway.

Wildlife rehabilitation centres can access this food for free, and we hope to convince the government that our wolves deserve this meat for free, too, especially since we are working

towards environmental conservation. Interestingly, a trapper can pick up road-killed wildlife at no cost, as long as they use the meat to trap and kill other wildlife. In February, the Ministry of Environment met with the Ministry of Transportation and the Permit Bureau to discuss our request. The answer was no, but we're fighting back!

Wildlife Awareness Week

April 10th recognizes the birthday of Jack Miner, one of the founders of Canada's Conservation Movement. The week surrounding his birthday, April 8-14, is Wildlife Awareness Week. This is a great time to celebrate Canada's Natural Heritage and play an active role in conservation.

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) offers some ideas of how you can participate:

- Invite outdoor/environmental educators to your community to conduct nature walks and talks on wildlife, or conduct school visits.
- Get together with friends, family and neighbours to improve habitat in a special wild place in your community such as a park, an urban forest, a pond, or the area surrounding a schoolyard.
- Create a special place in your backyard to share with wildlife. For ideas, visit CWF's Wild About Gardening website: www.wildaboutgardening.org
- Become a volunteer at a local naturalist/environment club.
- Organize a talent, poster, or writing contest with a wildlife theme.
- Have your municipality proclaim National Wildlife Week and add it to your community calendar.
- Prepare wildlife displays for shopping malls and other high-traffic areas. Local nature clubs may be able to help you.
- Organize a wildlife film festival at your local library, community center, or school auditorium.

- Ask your public library to display National Wildlife Week posters, available from CWF.
- Organize a tree-planting event at your school, library, or municipal office.

Conservation Issues

WILDLIFE COLLISION PREVENTION

Species conservation and management suffers greatly due to wildlife killed on highways and railroad tracks. As our population continues to expand, so do the networks of roads. These new transportation routes combined with increases in volume and speed mean that wildlife collisions are becoming more frequent.

Here are some statistics, and guidelines provided by the Wildlife Collision Prevention Program. For more information regarding wildlife and road safety in BC, check out www.wildlifecollisions.ca

- 4 to 8 large wildlife collisions occur every hour in Canada
- wildlife-vehicle collisions kill over 19,700 wild animals each year in BC
- Spring brings early vegetation ("green up") near roads which attracts animals
- Peak collision times are between 5:00pm and 11:00pm (46% of collisions) and 5:00am and 8:00am (17% of collisions)
- SLOW DOWN, especially at dusk and dawn, during the night, in foggy conditions, and where wildlife signs and reduced speed zones exist
- Actively watch for wildlife and drive defensively, be prepared to slow down or stop as soon as you see an animal
- Keep headlights clean and use highbeams to scan the road; honk your horn to scare off animals
- Report all collisions with wildlife to the local Conservation Officer Service